

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the present invention. Support for the claim amendments can be found at FIGS. 1 and 2 and pages 5 and 6 of the specification. Claims 1-15 and 18-20 are currently pending and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-15 AND 18-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER SREY (U.S. PATENT NO. 6, 141,436)(previously cited) IN VIEW BONGIORNO (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,292,045)(previously cited) AND FURTHER IN VIEW BRIGHT (U.S. PATENT NO. 4,262,329)(newly cited):

None of the foregoing references, individually or combined, disclose "a data converter comprising a data conversion unit configured to encrypt data originating in an external device and return the encrypted originated data back to the same external device to be stored therein, and when decrypting the stored encrypted originated data, the stored encrypted originated data is transmitted from the same external device to the data conversion unit to be decrypted and then the decrypted data is returned back to the same external device to be read; and a lock system configured to lock a data conversion function of said data conversion unit in a disabled state after a passage of a predetermined period of time so as to prevent said data conversion unit from encrypting and decrypting the data, wherein **the data converter is directly connectable to and disconnectable from the external device** so as to allow data exchange between the data converter and the external device," as recited in amended claim 1, for example. The claimed data converter may be for example, an IC card or cryptographic card whereby a connector portion of the cryptographic card is inserted into a slot portion of a computer, as shown in FIG. 2 of the present invention, for example.

In contrast, Srey merely discloses a cellular phone having a scanner for scanning a fingerprint and generating an image of the fingerprint to determine whether the fingerprint matches one stored in memory (see column 8, lines 50-60, for example).

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Srey fails to disclose "a passage of a predetermined period of time so as to prevent said data conversion unit from encrypting and decrypting the data," as recited in amended claim 1, for example. The Examiner also admits that Srey fails to disclose "a data conversion unit configured to encrypt data originating in an external device and return the encrypted originated data back to the same external device to be stored therein, and when decrypting the stored encrypted originated data, the stored encrypted originated data is transmitted from the same external device to the data conversion unit to be decrypted and then the decrypted data is returned back to the same external device to be read,"

as recited in claim 1, for example. However, the Examiner asserts that Bongiorno teaches cellular phones including microprocessors which include clocks such that a disable operation is performed once a predetermined time period has passed, at column 1, lines 10-18 and column 1, lines 30-39.

Again, Bongiorno merely discloses a timer to protect the microprocessor-based system from control failures, a system lockup, equipment faults and other malfunctions (see column 2, lines 35-39, for example).

Further, the Examiner asserts that Bright makes up for the deficiencies of Srey and Bongiorno. However, the Applicants respectfully disagree. The Applicants respectfully assert that Bright fails to make up for the deficiencies of both Srey and Bongiorno.

Bright discloses a security system for data processing, whereby the security system includes a Hard-Node unit, which can encrypt/decrypt data passed to it by a host machine and return the results to the machine (see column 2, lines 35-40). However, the Hard-Node unit is stored in a high secure enclosure, such as a locked bank vault for example, which is not physically accessible except under appropriate conditions to restricted personnel, the hard wall maintains the security of the encryption process and also enclosed the interfaces with the host machine (see column 2, line 62 – column 3, line 1, for example). In addition, as shown in FIG. 2, the Hard-Node unit includes a door and a door-open sensor to detect the opening and closing of the door, and to supply signals to a CPU of the Hard-Node unit. Thus, the Hard-Node unit is not directly connected to and disconnected from the Host machine (i.e. external device). Instead, it is a separate unit enclosed in a vault, for example, and connected to the host machine via an I/O link as shown in FIG. 1, for example.

Independent claim 18 recites “an electronic device for processing information, the electronic device comprising...a data converter”.

As recited in claim 18, in this embodiment of the present invention, the electronic device includes a data converter therein. In contrast, the Hard-Node unit of Bright is not included in but merely connected indirectly and externally to the host machine.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claims 1 and 18, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited references.

ENTRY OF RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116:

The Applicants requests entry of this Rule 116 Response and Request for Reconsideration because the Bright reference applied to the claims is newly cited in the final

Office Action, and the Applicants should be provided the opportunity to present patentability arguments and amendments in view thereof.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in §714.12 that "[a]ny amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." (Underlining added for emphasis) Moreover, §714.13 sets forth that "[t]he Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the teachings of Srey, Bongiorno, and Bright are fundamentally different from that of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1, for example. Accordingly, the combination of these references, fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

II. CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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